

Celebrity NEWS



**Jussi
Bjoerling**

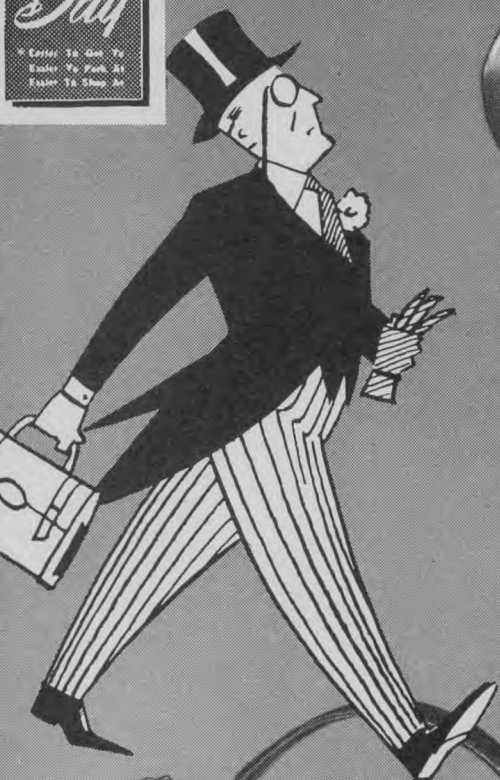


Leading Tenor of the
Metropolitan Opera Association
FREDERICK SCHAUWECKER, Pianist

Monday, October Third
at 8:40 p.m.

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CELEBRITY NEWS

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JUSSI BJOERLING

Biography

IN NEW YORK CITY recently, Mrs. Enrico Caruso, widow of the immortal tenor, came right out and said that the only living tenor who comes close to wearing her husband's crown is the Metropolitan Opera's Swedish-born Jussi Bjoerling.

Notable Musical Background

The career of this famous tenor reads like a Viking legend. Jussi's father, David Bjoerling, was a noted opera and concert singer whom Caruso personally coached early in his career. Jussi was one of four sons. With three of his young sons, David Bjoerling formed the Bjoerling Quartet, singing in churches in Sweden. In 1919 he brought the

children to the U.S. and toured the country. At sixteen, Jussi met John Forsell, director of the Royal Opera in Stockholm, who immediately accepted him as his pupil at the Royal Academy of Music.

Operatic Beginning

At the age of nineteen, Jussi Bjoerling made his debut at the Stockholm Opera, singing Ottavio in Don Giovanni. World success followed rapidly. In the next four years the young tenor had made guest appearances at the leading opera houses in Prague, Vienna, Dresden, Paris, Brussels and Florence. In 1935 the English-speaking world heard him for the first time when he sang at Covent Garden, London.

(Continued on Page 18)

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Opera in the vernacular is always a good subject for controversy. Heated arguments are made in its favor and against it. Charles L. Wagner, impresario of "LA BOHEME", the Wagner Grand Opera Company's latest production has until recent years been a great believer that audiences always wanted "to laugh in English and cry in a foreign tongue." He did not believe it possible to give grand opera in any other language than that in which it was originally written. However, last season he was fortunate in securing the services of Ruth and Thomas Martin, who have long been known for their singable and brilliant English translation, a good example being "Madame Butterfly" which played here last October. The immediate success all over the country of "Madame Butterfly" in English convinced Mr. Wagner that grand opera in English can be given convincingly if the translation is a splendid one.

Thomas Martin is musical director, and Ruth Martin accompanies the company on tour as translator. Desire Defrere is artistic director.



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"Desert Destiny", the first comprehensive all-color film ever made of the Middle East, will be presented in person by J. Michael Hagopian, Ph.D., who is a leading authority on Arab and Middle Eastern affairs. Two shows will be presented at the Playhouse at 8 p.m. and 9:50 p.m. on Monday, October 31.

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Winnipeg's only grand opera performance — Puccini's musical masterpiece "La Boheme" — will be presented at the Auditorium on Saturday, October 22. Two performances will be given: at 2:30 p.m. and at 8:30 p.m.

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We congratulate the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on a successful "Symphony Week." We agree: "Good music is good entertainment." May we direct your attention to the W.S.O. advertisement on Page 13.

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World Adventure Tours is enjoying public favour — our "Series A" presented at the Playhouse at 8 p.m. is almost sold out by subscription so we have inaugurated a new "Series B" of 5 events commencing at 9:50 p.m. Celebrity subscribers may obtain excellent reserved seats for Series B at the special introductory price of only \$3.95 for the 5 events:

"DESERT DESTINY", with Dr. J. Michael Hagopian in person	Mon. Oct. 31
"SPAIN", with Clifford Kamen in person	Sat. Nov. 26
"HOLIDAY IN FRANCE" with Robert Friars in person	Wed. Dec. 14
"GERMANY," with Kenneth Richter in person	Mon. Mar. 12
"UTAH", with Stan Midgley in person	Wed. Apr. 4

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PROGRAMME

Jussi Bjoerling

Leading Tenor of the Metropolitan Opera Association

FREDERICK SCHAUWECKER at the Piano

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

I

Recitative and Aria: OMBRA MAI FU, "Xerxes" Handel

O ye inviting shade of my beloved woods! No shade so rare e'er lay on mountain brow.

II

FRUEHLINGSLAUBE Schubert

Awakened are the breezes light, murmuring gently day and night, a promise of spring they're bringing. New sounds arise and sweet perfume. Now, my poor heart, throw off the gloom. Sorrow must change to singing.

DIE FORELLE Schubert

I watched the playful splashing of a trout in the brook. A fisherman stood on the bank; I feared lest he catch the little fish; but the trout was careful. Then, alas, the fisherman stirred the water and caught the fish before my eyes. I gazed regretfully at the poor cheated one.

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(PROGRAMME CONTINUED)

STANDCHEN Schubert

From the collection of fourteen songs published under the title "Schwanengesang" (Swan Song), Serenade is perhaps his most famous composition, known and loved the world over.

"Softly through the night floats my song to you. In the stillness I await thee; come, my love, to me. Do you hear the nightingales complain? They plead for me. They understand the pain of love. Oh, my heart is filled with longing. Darling, hear my plea — come and bring me joy."

TRAUM DURCH DIE DAMMERUNG Richard Strauss

"The sun has set, the stars appear — and now I go to the beautiful maid, far across the meadows in the dusk of eve."

ZUEIGNUNG Richard Strauss

A rapturous confession of the joy and anguish of love.

III
FLOWER SONG, "Carmen", Act II Bizet

"La fleur que tu m'avais jetée"

Don Jose sings to Carmen of the flower she threw to him at their first meeting and in touching accents tells her how he kept it through the dreary weeks of his prison life. He closes with, "O, my Carmen, I lived only for you. Carmen, I love you!"



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IV

LILACS Rachmaninoff

Morning red is aglow,
And the lilacs ablow,
On my lips the caress of the wind;
In the shadowy bush
Where the dew-drops lie fresh.
Is it there I shall happiness find?
Rare is happiness, yes,
Yet we seek it alway
And my own 'mid yon foliage lies;
Where in sweet, verdant gloom
Lilacs clustering bloom;
When they pass — my poor happiness dies.

—Frances Holden Seaver.

IN THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT Rachmaninoff

Oh, in the silent night I dream that you are near,
With your caressing voice, your loving smile so dear.
Your hair in flowing strands of black . . .
How oft I bid you go — how oft I call you back!
With whispers of thy name I wake the silent night . . .
But you are gone forever, my love, my life, my light!



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(PROGRAMME CONTINUED)

DEMANTEN PA MARSSNON

(The Diamond on the March Snow) Sibelius

The white snow falls softly and covers the ground more and more. Sleep on, O Spring, beneath the snow, and do not awaken too soon. For more powerfully will you then bloom, and more richly die.

SVARTA ROSER (Black Roses) Sibelius

Tell me, what grief overcomes you today, you that ever art so joyous and gay. Alas I do not grieve more deeply today than when I fain to be joyous and gay. Black roses are born of my sorrow.

IDEALE Tosti

I followed thee when, like a rainbow seeming, thy light the heavens unclouded. I followed thee, a friendly torchlight gleaming, when night's veil all enshrouded. And then I found in the sunlight, existence, in the perfume of flowers. And my home, once so lonely, in the distance seem'd changed to fairy bowers.

L'ALBA SEPARA DALLA LUCE L'OMBRA Tosti

Dawn separates night from morning
O sweet stars — it is the hour to die! . . .

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(PROGRAMME CONTINUED)

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“Andrea Chenier”, Act IV Giordano

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THE BRITISH VARIETY SHOW

The British Variety Show, starring Tessie O'Shea, Alec Finlay and Norman Evans, will come to town for one performance only at the Auditorium on Tuesday, October 25th. All net proceeds of the show's trans-Canada tour will go to the Variety Club of Toronto, whose magnificent support of Variety Village, the crippled children's hospital and rehabilitation centre, deserves nation-wide acclaim. Variety Club members include the top executives of the motion picture industry, the legitimate theatre, and of other associated enterprises. We can promise an evening of hilarious fun for all at the 1955 British Variety Show. Tickets are now available at Celebrity Box-Office.

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Tickets for all future Celebrity Concerts and World Adventure Tours
events go on sale **next Saturday, October 8th, at Celebrity Box-Office.**

"La Boheme"	Auditorium	Sat. Oct. 22
		at 2:30 and 8:30 p.m.

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Virtuosi di Roma

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Kenneth Richter, with "Germany"

Stan Midgley, with "Utah"

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Playhouse	Mon. Oct. 31
Auditorium	Tue. Nov. 1
Auditorium	Sat. Nov. 12
Playhouse	Sat. Nov. 26
Playhouse	Wed. Nov. 30
	Thu. Dec. 1
Playhouse	Fri. Dec. 2
Playhouse	Sat. Dec. 3
Playhouse	Wed. Dec. 14
Auditorium	Mon. Jan. 9
Auditorium	Mon. Jan. 30
Auditorium	Thu. Feb. 16
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OUR 44th SEASON

We cordially welcome Celebrity Concert patrons to the inaugural concert of our 1955-1956 season! Welcome, too, Mr. Jussi Bjoerling and accompanist Frederick Schauwecker. Mr. Bjoerling previously appeared under Celebrity auspices in Winnipeg on April 27th, 1950.

THE COMING SEASON

Highlights of the new Celebrity Series are solo appearances by Heifetz, Gieseking, Byron Janis, Robert McFerrin, and of course, Jussi Bjoerling. Group attractions include Charles L. Wagner's Grand Opera Company presenting "La Boheme," Puccini's famed opera will be sung in English by this excellent company. The Robert Shaw Chorale and Orchestra is the outstanding group of its kind, having won high praise from Maestro Arturo Toscanini himself.

Unique is the Virtuosi di Roma, an ensemble comprising fourteen selected soloists from one of the world's music capitals.

The American Savoyards' presentations of Gilbert and Sullivan's masterpieces "The Mikado", "H.M.S. Pinafore", and "Pirates of Penzance" will delight us all.

The Vienna Academy Chorus, directed by Dr. Ferdinand Grossman will provide wonderful music and songs from old Vienna.

For dates and ticket information, kindly refer to page 15.

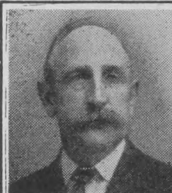
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(Continued on Page 17)

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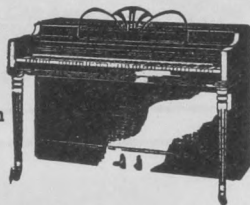
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The distinguished star of stage and screen, HENRY HULL, will appear at the Playhouse Theatre Monday, April 9th. Mr. Hull will present an entertaining program of readings and comment as Mark Twain in "An Evening with Mark Twain." Subscribers to Celebrity Concert Series and World Adventure Tours will be offered first choice of seats at "bonus" prices. Why not reserve yours now?

OUR 44th SEASON (Continued)

Calgary, Edmonton and Regina will enjoy ten Celebrity Concerts and seven World Adventure Tours events. The Celebrity Series for the three cities will be:

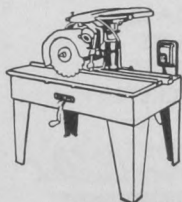
"The Mikado" and "H.M.S. Pinafore"
Jussi Bjoerling, tenor
Bidu Sayao, soprano
Vienna Academy Chorus
Vronsky and Babin, duo-pianists
The American Savoyards,

Byron Janis, pianist
Virtuosi di Roma
Heifetz
The Knickerbocker Quartet
Norman Farrow, Canadian baritone

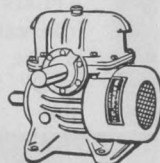
Saskatoon will have eight Celebrity Concerts; Moose Jaw, four; Lethbridge, five; Trail, B.C., four; Fort William, five; at Red Deer, Alta., we're presenting a series of six events: four concerts and two traveltales.

Celebrity subscribers are offered a 'bargain rate' for five World Adventure Tours presentations — Series B, for \$3.95. Kindly see page 8 for details.

Patrons who purchased single admission tickets for Mr. Bjoerling's recital tonight are reminded that they will receive full value for the price paid if the seat stubs are brought to Celebrity Box-Office and a season ticket for the remaining nine concerts is purchased. Subscribe and Save up to 50%.



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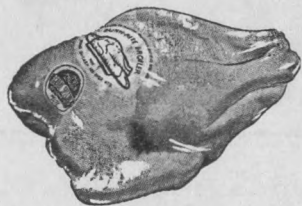
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Recordings made in Sweden and in England rapidly spread the fame of the new tenor around the world. In 1937 Bjoerling came to the United States for a concert tour and in 1938 he was signed by the Metropolitan Opera Association and made a memorable debut as Rodolfo in "La Boheme". The same year, he made appearances with the Chicago and San Francisco Opera Companies and gave his first New York recital.

Bjoerling's Opera Revivals

In the past five seasons, the Metropolitan Opera Association has restored a different opera each year to its repertoire especially for Jussi Bjoerling. These have been Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet," "Ballo in Maschera," "Manon Lescaut," "Don Carlos," and "Faust."

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